

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ACDE-00
CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02
OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
TRSE-00 /082 W
-----030476 132022Z /43

R 131410Z DEC 77
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2560
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK POUCH

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0687

FROM US REP MBFR

USSALTTWO

BELGRADE ALSO FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM NATO
SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD DEC 5-11, 1977

1. BEGIN SUMMARY, EFFORTS CONTINUED THIS WEEK TO RESOLVE
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PROCEDURAL ISSUES IN TIME TO PERMIT A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF
EASTERN AND WESTERN MILITARY MANPOWER DATA BEFORE THE
END OF THE CURRENT ROUND OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION
NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON DECEMBER 9, ACTING ON THE AD HOC GROUP'S
REQUEST OF DECEMBER 3, THE NAC APPROVED GUIDANCE

CONCERNING THE TEXT OF THE ORAL STATEMENT WHICH THE EAST HAD PROPOSED ON DECEMBER 1 AS A MECHANISM FOR RESOLVING THE PROCEDURAL ISSUES THAT HAVE THUS FAR BLOCKED A FURTHER EAST-WEST EXCHANGE OF MILITARY MANPOWER DATA IN THE VIENNA TALKS. THE GUIDANCE AUTHORIZED WESTERN REPS TO ACQUIESCE IN THE PROPOSED EASTERN ORAL STATEMENT PROVIDED THE PREAMBULAR REFERENCE TO THE OCTOBER 25 EASTERN DATA DISAGGREGATION PROPOSAL WAS EITHER OMITTED OR BALANCED BY A PARALLEL REFERENCE TO THE NOVEMBER 9 WESTERN PRESENTATION ON DATA DISAGGREGATION. THE GUIDANCE FURTHER DIRECTED WESTERN REPS TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO REMOVE THE PARALLELISM BETWEEN THE TREATMENT OF THE EASTERN PROPOSAL TO EXCHANGE MANNING LEVEL INFORMATION AND THE WESTERN PROPOSAL TO SUBDIVIDE AIR FORCE MANPOWER DATA AND TO STRENGTHEN THE EASTERN COMMITMENT EVENTUALLY TO PROVIDE A FORTHCOMING RESPONSE TO THE LATTER.

3. IN ACCORDANCE WITH A DECISION TAKEN BY THE AD HOC GROUP EARLIER IN THE DAY, US REPS DREW ON THE NEW NAC GUIDANCE IN A DECEMBER 10 MEETING WITH SOVIET REPS. SOVIET REPS SAID THAT ELIMINATION OF ALL MENTION OF THE OCTOBER 25 EASTERN PROPOSAL WOULD DEPRIVE THE EAST OF FAIR CREDIT FOR HAVING MOVED TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK OVER THE TABLING OF MORE DETAILED DATA. THEY REJECTED THE ALTERNATIVE OF ADDING A REFERENCE
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TO THE NOVEMBER 9 WESTERN STATEMENT ON DATA DISAGGREGATION ON GROUNDS THAT IT WAS FULL OF UNACCEPTABLE RESERVATIONS. SOVIET REPS WERE FURTHER UNWILLING TO MODIFY THE PROPOSED EASTERN TREATMENT OF AIR MANPOWER DISAGGREGATION AND THE EXCHANGE OF MANNING LEVELS, STATING IN THIS REGARD THAT THE CHANGES SUGGESTED BY THE WEST WOULD PREJUDICE THE CASE TOWARD ACCEPTANCE OF THE WESTERN FORMULA FOR SUBDIVIDING AIR MANPOWER AND DIMINISH THE STATUS OF THE EASTERN MANNING LEVEL PROPOSAL.

4. SOVIET REPS DID, HOWEVER, GO ON TO MAKE A COUNTER-PROPOSAL UNDER WHICH, BY PREARRANGEMENT, EASTERN REPS AT AN INFORMAL SESSION DURING THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 12 WOULD:
(1) REFER TO THEIR OCTOBER 25 PROPOSAL AND REPEAT THE TEXT OF IT ONLY AS IT DESCRIBED THE DATA TO BE EXCHANGED AND THE EASTERN PROPOSAL TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON AVERAGE MANNING LEVELS. (2) WESTERN REPS WOULD THEN MAKE A STATEMENT DESCRIBING THE ADDITIONS OR MODIFICATIONS THE WEST DESIRED AS REGARDS THE DATA TO BE EXCHANGED, AND WOULD STATE THAT THE EAST'S MANNING LEVEL PROPOSAL WOULD BE STUDIED. (3) EASTERN REPS WOULD, IN TURN, REFER TO THE TWO STATEMENTS JUST MADE AND SUMMARIZE THEIR CONTENTS

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0687

FROM US REP MBFR

USSALTTWO

BELGRADE ALSO FOR USDEL CSCE

IN A SINGLE, MUTUALLY AGREED LIST OF DATA TO BE
EXCHANGED. UNDER THIS PROCEDURE, NEITHER SIDE WOULD
MAKE ANY STATEMENT OF ANY KIND CONCERNING THE FUTURE
OTHER THAN THAT WESTERN REPS WOULD COMMIT THEMSELVES
TO STUDY THE EASTERN MANNING LEVEL PROPOSAL AND EASTERN
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REPS WOULD DO LIKEWISE AS REGARDS THE WESTERN PROPOSAL TO SUBDIVIDE AIR MANPOWER. IN THE SAME INFORMAL SESSION, FURTHER GROUND FORCE DATA WOULD THEN BE EXCHANGED. US AND SOVIET REPS AGREED TO CONSULT AGAIN ON DECEMBER 12 FOLLOWING DISCUSSION WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE ALLIES OF THE RESULTS OF THE DECEMBER 10 US-SOVIET MEETING.

5. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF THE DATA QUESTION AS SUCH DURING THE DECEMBER 6 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS. WESTERN REPS CRITICIZED THE EASTERN PROPOSAL THAT ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AGREE TO FREEZE THE LEVELS OF THEIR MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE REDUCTION AREA FOR THE DURATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THEY URGED THE EAST INSTEAD TO JOIN IN A COMMITMENT NOT TO INCREASE MANPOWER STRENGTH WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF AN AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR REDUCTIONS TO AN EVENTUAL OUTCOME OF PARITY IN MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA. WESTERN REPS COUNTERED A HYPOTHETICAL EASTERN QUESTION OF WHETHER AN AGREEMENT ON DATA IN THE ABSENCE OF A FINAL REDUCTION AGREEMENT WOULD MAKE THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL ACCEPTABLE TO THE WEST WITH ONE OF THEIR OWN AS TO WHETHER THE EAST WOULD COMMIT ITSELF TO AN OUTCOME OF MANPOWER PARITY IN THE EVENT MUTUALLY AGREED MANPOWER DATA CONFIRMED AN EASTERN SUPERIORITY. THE EASTERN RESPONSE TO THE LATTER QUERY MADE CLEAR THAT EASTERN REPS HAD IN MIND A DATA AGREEMENT BASED ON PRESENT EASTERN DATA WHICH PURPORTS TO SHOW THAT ROUGH MANPOWER PARITY ALREADY EXISTED IN THE AREA.

6. DURING THE BALANCE OF THE SESSION, WESTERN REPS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WEST'S DECEMBER 1975 PROPOSALS AND SAID THESE PROPOSALS OFFERED A REALISTIC AND PRACTICAL OPPORTUNITY FOR REACHING A MUTAULLY
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ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT. WESTERN REPS ALSO REVIEWED THE REASONS FOR THE WESTERN FOCUS ON GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS. EASTERN REPS DISPUTED WESTERN STATEMENTS THAT THE MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF THE OBLIGATIONS WHICH THE WEST WAS PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE WAS AT LEAST EQUAL TO THAT OF THE OBLIGATIONS THE WEST WAS SEEKING FROM THE EAST. THEY CRITICIZED THE WESTERN PROPOSAL FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF AN ENTIRE SOVIET TANK ARMY AND THE WESTERN REFUSAL TO AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO COMPREHENSIVE ARMAMENT REDUCTIONS. EASTERN REPS ALSO CRITICIZED THE FAILURE OF NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS TO GIVE ADEQUATE GUARANTEES OF THEIR EVENTIAL PARTICIPATION IN MANPOWER AND ARMAMENT REDUCTIONS.

7. CZECHOSLOVAK REP MEISNER DELIVERED THE ONLY STATEMENT AT THE DECEMBER 9 PLENARY MEETING. HIS PRESENTATION CONCENTRATED ON THE NECESSITY TO REDUCE AND LIMIT AIR FORCES AND ATTACKED THE DEFICIENCIES OF THE WESTERN REDUCTION APPROACH IN THIS REGARD. MEISNER CHARGED THAT, AMONG OTHER REASONS, THE WEST WANTED TO EXCLUDE AIR FORCES FROM REDUCTIONS SO AS TO LEAVE OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF LATER USING THOSE FORCES TO COMPENSATE FOR ANY LOSS OF OVERALL MILITARY CAPABILITY RESULTING FROM THE REDUCTION OF GROUND FORCES. RESOR

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MBFRV00687
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770464-0177
Format: TEL
From: MBFR VIENNA USSALTTWO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771262/aaaacamn.tel
Line Count: 234
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 16abc305-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 259021
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD DEC 5-11, 1977
TAGS: PARM, XH, XT, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/16abc305-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009